troller is in the low-power mode, thereby executing an I/O connector state retention function;

a power state manager; and

a user interface that, depending on a value stored in a data holding logic element of the user interface, allows either automated I/O connector state retention by the power state manager or user-controlled I/O connector state retention.

18. The microcontroller of claim **17** wherein, if a first value is stored in the data holding logic element, the user interface allows the power state manager to initiate execution of the I/O connector state retention function automatically when the microprocessor enters the low-power mode, and allows release of the I/O connector state retention function automatically when the microprocessor exits the low-power mode.

19. The microcontroller of claim **18** wherein the I/O connector state retention logic includes a plurality of latches each of which is operable to be enabled to latch a respective one of the control signals from the I/O controller.

20. The microcontroller of claim **19** wherein the power state manager is operable to provide a signal to cause the latches to latch the respective control signals when the microprocessor enters the low-power mode.

21. The microcontroller of claim **20** wherein, when the microprocessor exits the low-power mode, the power state manager releases the signal that caused the latches to latch the respective control signals.

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